

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully traverse and request reconsideration.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the Notice that claims 9-15 and 22-34 are allowed. Claims 1-8 and 16-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as set forth in the final action. In the Advisory Action, the Examiner states that for claims 1 and 16 there appear to be two separate concepts presented in that there is a step for providing a vendor certification program comprising a curriculum via the communication network on a fee basis, and receiving a notification that the vendor has successfully completed the vendor certification program. The Advisory Action indicates that the notification can come from any type of entity. Claim 1 has been amended to indicate that receiving the notification is from an entity administering the vendor certification program. Such an operation is not taught in the Gindlesperger reference as the Advisory Action admits. As such, the claims are in condition for allowance.


In addition, Applicants respectfully reassert the relevant remarks made in the previous response.

Applicants respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. The Examiner is invited to

contact the below-listed attorney if the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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